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(54) Title: SHEET JOINING METHOD AND APPARATUS AND A RIVET FOR USE IN THE METHOD

(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus for joining together two or more superimposed generally planar sheets by setting a fastener in engagement with the sheets at a predetermined location. The sheets are superimposed and placed in a fastener setting and sheet deforming assembly. The assembly is then operated to set a fastener into the sheet and to deform the sheets out of their planes around the predetermined locations. The sheets may be deformed before the fastener is set, after the fastener is set, or simultaneously with setting of the fastener. Sheet deformation may be achieved using appropriate clamping arrangements or by providing recesses into which the sheets are deformed during the course of rivet insertion. The invention also relates to a rivet for use in the method.

